United Nations S/2018/63

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2379 (2017), in which the Council requested me to establish an investigative team, headed by a special adviser, to support domestic efforts to hold Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) accountable, by collecting, preserving and storing evidence in Iraq of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by the terrorist group ISIL in Iraq.

I also have the honour to refer to my letters to the President of the Security Council of 20 November 2017 (S/2017/989), 14 December 2017 (S/2017/1072) and 21 December 2017 (S/2017/1122) and the letters dated 27 November 2017 (S/2017/990), 18 December 2017 (S/2017/1073) and 27 December 2017 (S/2017/1123) from the President of the Security Council addressed to me.

In his letter of 27 December 2017, the President of the Security Council informed me that the members of the Council had taken note of my request for an additional period of time, until 19 January 2018, for the submission of the terms of reference of the investigative team.

The Secretariat has continued to engage with the Government of Iraq to resolve the issue concerning the sharing of evidence by the investigative team for use in criminal proceedings in which capital punishment could be imposed or carried out. Notwithstanding the best efforts of the Secretariat, it has not been possible thus far to resolve that issue and, consequently, to finalize terms of reference acceptable to the Government of Iraq.

I therefore wish to request an extension of the time frame for the submission of the terms of reference until 9 February 2018, in order to continue the efforts to reach an agreement with the Government of Iraq. In the event that we are able to finalize terms of reference acceptable to the Government of Iraq before 9 February 2018, I will inform the Security Council accordingly.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-01137 (E) 250118

Please recycle